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5 JAN 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Security Requirements for Government Employment

1. The memoranda of 19 December to the National Security Council Planning Board discussed various aspects of a Civil Service recommendation to establish a formal employee security advisory committee. The papers are directed to consideration of the Administration's program as described in Executive Order 10450.

2. Action limited to this program would not impair the authorities of the Director of Central Intelligence, particularly those set forth in Section 102(c) of the National Security Act of 1947. Even if the action purported to extend further than the President's program under Executive Order 10450, it is doubtful that such executive action would impair such clear-cut statutory authority. The Attorney General has agreed that the Director may, within his discretion, process and take action upon security cases without reference to Executive Order 10450. Therefore, neither the proposed executive order accompanying the staff memorandum of 19 December nor the Department of Justice's suggestion in that memorandum that the committee if constituted would logically be placed in the Civil Service Commission are technically objectionable from the viewpoint of this Office. On the other hand, our experience has not indicated any need for a change, and any change which would in any way tend to impair the Director's authority in such matters should be resisted.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON  
General Counsel

Att - Background papers on  
subject

cc: DD/S  
Director of Security

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